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News Release

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Brothers plead guilty to manufacturing marijuana plants

The second of two brothers pleaded guilty yesterday in federal court to one count of conspiracy to manufacture more than 1,000 marijuana plants.

Ryan Thanh Dihn, 36, Burnsville, entered his plea May 27 before United States District Court Judge Michael Davis in Minneapolis. Nhan Thanh Dinh, 35, Brooklyn Park, pleaded guilty to the same count before Judge Davis on April 9. The two were indicted on Nov. 14, 2007.

According to their respective plea agreements, law enforcement stopped Ryan Dihn on Oct. 29, 2007, as he was leaving Nhan Dinh's residence. Located in the vehicle were approximately 18 ½ pounds of harvested marijuana packaged in half-pound packages.

During the execution of a search warrant at Nhan Dinh's Brooklyn Park residence, police discovered 1,129 marijuana plants. Ryan Dihn admitted he knew of the marijuana grow operation and was being compensated for delivering the marijuana.

According to an affidavit, the West Metro Drug Task Force started investigating the Dinh brothers in August 2007, and had observed both brothers with equipment, supplies and materials commonly used to grow marijuana indoors. Investigators, according to the affidavit, observed excessive condensation built up on several windows of Dinh's Brooklyn Park residence, and observed a large V pattern spreading out from the roof vents where the frost had melted off.

Ryan Dinh and Nhan Dinh each face a potential maximum penalty of life in prison. Judge Davis will determine their sentences at a future date.

This case is the result of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the West Metro Drug Task Force, the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office, and the police departments of Brooklyn Park and Burnsville. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney LeeAnn K. Bell.